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THE KHMERS IN COMBAT

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Disastrous October Floods in South Viet Nam

US-Puppets To Be Blamed for the Catastrophic Human and Material Losses

IN late October, two tropical typhoons of unusual violence ravaged the coastal provinces in the northern part of South Viet Nam. Torrential rains caused extensive sudden floods. The waters carried away crops, dwelling houses, cattle and poultry, etc. Thousands of people were drowned or reported missing.

According to *Giai Phong* Press Agency quoting preliminary reports from the hardest hit areas, in Quang Nam province (where Da Nang is located) alone, 2,000 people penned up in the Thuong Duc and Kiem Lam "refugees' camps" were swept away. In other camps in Hoi An and in the western part of Duy Xuyen district, 4,000 others fell victims to the disaster. Most of the casualties were old people, women and children. Tens of thousands of people were made homeless and about 85% of the crop were destroyed. The provinces of Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Quang Tin and Quang Ngai which form with that of Quang Nam the puppet First Military Area were also seriously hit. At least 300,000 people in all lost their property among them about 170,000 in the provinces of Quang Tri and Quang Ngai.

While the PRG gave specific instructions to local revolutionary committees to take urgent relief measures, the US-puppets launched in the height of the flood "mopping-up" operations to regroup the inhabitants into new camps. Nguyen Van Thieu personally came to Hue and held secret meetings for a step-up of "pacification" in flood-stricken areas.

The hypocritical protestations of the Saigon puppets of their solicitude for the victims can in no way obscure their responsibility for the grievous losses and damage suffered by the population.

The US-puppets had impounded the inhabitants in closely watched "strategic hamlets." They had flattened whole villages with dwellings solidly built to be handed down from generation to generation. The camps set up by them were only provided with flimsy structures easily carried off by the current. Furthermore, villagers living on river banks had their boats either confiscated or kept under seal by the puppet authorities.. Because of this measure 6,000 people in the camps of Thuong Duc, Kiem Lam, Hoi An and Duy Xuyen were deprived of the means of coping with the calamity.

In addition, the effects of the chemical warfare conducted in South Viet Nam since 1962 by the Americans had devastated the vegetation which would have curbed the destructiveness of the floods. Nobody ignores the role of the natural cover of the soil, especially at the sources of streams, over the flow of rain waters. The danger arising from extensive deforestation is terrible when the rains are torrential. The systematic "defoliation" carried out in South Viet Nam on vast jungle areas is more devastating than the clearing of milpas by the ethnic minorities. Since 1962, the Americans have spread 45,000 tons of toxic chemicals on more than 2.2 million hectares of forests and crops, or 13% of the total surface area of South Viet Nam.

According to an authority in ecology, Mme Mousseau of the National Scientific Research Centre in Paris (statement on Orsay Studies Day, Jan. 21, 1970), "in some areas where application of defoliants was repeated 2 or 3 times, more than 50% of the vegetation were destroyed, including young shoots." Moreover, the flood-stricken provinces were in the last few years the scene of one of the most intensive "pacification" campaigns. Significantly, the Son My, Ba Lang An, Que Son, Tien

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ON November 13, 1970, an American plane was downed over Ha Tinh province, bringing the total number of aircraft lost by the US in the DRVN since August 5, 1964 to **3,364**.

The massive spravings of defoliants have got the better of the luxuriant coconut-trees as they did the rich forests of South Viet Nam

Nixon and the Mid-Term Elections

NIXON hullabalooed that he would come out of the November 3 mid-term elections with flying colours but actually suffered a setback as observers of all tendencies unanimously agreed.

The efforts exerted by him were unheard of in the parliamentary history of the USA: electioneering trips to nearly all the States, expenditure five times bigger than that of the Democratic party and deliberate political gestures during pre-election days (Western Europe tour, resumption of SALT on November 2, prolongation of the Middle East cease-fire to November 5, etc., and above all the October 7 "peace speech" concerning Indochina.

He had thrown in all the weight of his prestige in the hope of securing a great majority which would give him *carte blanche* in the implementation of his political designs in the US as well as in the world and in the use of every trick in the conduct of the Indochina war.

But contrary to his expectations, Nixon remained a prisoner of Congress, mostly controlled by the Democrats, while the Republican losses of state governorships augured ill for eventual manipulations in the '72 presidential election. Nixon had tried hard to oust from the Senate and the House of Representatives critics of his Indochinese policy, but to no avail. He has endeavoured to give A1 priority to law and order and to induce social sections not very political-minded to vote for conservatism and even for fascism. With his October "peace proposals" he had hoped to "defuse" the Viet Nam issue and remove it as central issue of the electoral campaign. However, in the opinion of everyone, the Viet Nam problem has so far remained the main concern of the Americans. In point of fact, during their electoral tour across the USA, Nixon and Agnew were greeted everywhere with anti-war slogans demanding an immediate end to the US aggression against Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia and prompt repatriation of all GIs; the San Jose "confrontation" was particularly meaningful in this respect. What dominated the electoral debates was the crucial economic problems: recession, inflation and unemployment, etc., and over them was looming the shadow of the Indochina war. More than ever, the relations between

(Continued page 2)

Electrification of Cao Bang Mountainous Villages

CAO Bang is a northernmost province in North Viet Nam inhabited by over 100,000 minority people (1/3 of the total population in the province). It is watered by many streams and small rivers; three-quarters of its area is covered with mountains and jungle. The construction of small and medium size hydro-power stations in the province is highly advisable as it meets its economic requirements and can help raise the living standard of the highlanders there.

Up to the beginning of 1970, 26 power stations there were commissioned.

In Bao Lac district, four nationalities (Tay-Nung, Meo, Yao) spent thousands of workdays building two stations which have been generating power for lighting and a system of public address.

At the Ba Chang co-operative, Nguyen Binh district, after settling down for good, the once nomadic Red-clad Yao and Coin-wearing Yao have built a 12kw hydro-power station themselves.

With the State's technical and equipment help, the Suoi Cun people have completed a medium-size station which can work 14 pumping stations and irrigate 1,200 hectares of land, thereby turning one crop ricefields to double crop ones, and supply energy to a dozen small engineering units and agricultural and forest product-processing enterprises for the manufacture of a number of commodities for local use.

The development of electrification has led to the formation of skilled workers among ethnic minorities.

A hydro-power station has been significantly built on the bank of the Lenin stream, so named by President Ho Chi Minh when he was engaged in revolutionary activity in that region. It has been providing power to three pumping stations, some small engineering units and husking mills in the locality. The Pac Bo Museum (dedicated to President Ho Chi Minh), schools, hospitals and many villages have been getting electric light from it. The nationalities in Cao Bang continue to build other similar projects. Cadres and technical workers of minority origin have been trained to man them.

DRVN
News in Brief

● Informed of the calamities which hit the central provinces of Trung Bo (South Viet Nam), the President of the DRVN sent to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman of the Presidium of the CC of the South Viet Nam NFL and Mr Huynh Tan Phat, President of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, a message of sympathy for the stricken population.

● The DRVN government took on November 7 the decision to send 40,000 tons of rice, 4 million metres of cloth and 20 tons of medicines to help the victims.

● The Council of Ministers of the DRVN decided to strengthen the State supervision and re-organization of services at various levels affecting this supervision. The principle laid down in this decision is to carry out supervision from top to bottom and vice versa. The grass-roots level and toiling masses are urged to take part in this task.

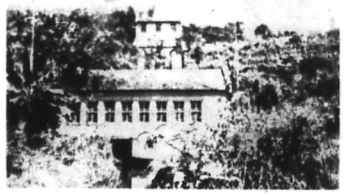
● The enterprises of the General Department of Chemical Products fulfilled in September 78% of their annual plan of production of chemical fertilizers (an increase of 12.8% compared with the corresponding period of last year).

● At the invitation of the DRVN, an economic delegation of the government of the **People's Republic of Bulgaria** led by Pentcho Koubadinski, member of the Political Bureau of the CC of the Bulgarian Communist Party, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Architecture and Constructions, arrived in Hanoi for a visit.

● On November 6, DRVN President Ton Duc Thang sent congratulations to Hwalimu Julius K. Neyeréré on his re-election as president of the **United Republic of Tanzania.**

● At the invitation of the Ministry of National Defence of the DRVN, a military delegation of the **United Republic of Tanzania,** led by Colonel Ali Mahfudh, arrived in Hanoi on November 8.

● An agreement on economic and military aid granted by **Czechoslovakia** to the DRVN was signed on Nov. 6 in Prague between the economic delegations of the DRVN and the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia.



Pac Bo hydro-power station.

US Pilots Held in North Viet Nam To Receive Christmas Parcels

IN implementation of the DRVN government's humanitarian policy vis-a-vis the US pilots held in North Viet Nam, the families of the latter are allowed on the occasion of Christmas 1970 and New Year 1971:

— Exceptionally to send the season's parcels of 5 kg (instead of the usual 3 kg). The parcels are to be sent by post via Moscow in compliance with the formalities already laid down. Parcels sent in any other way will not be accepted.

— To send to Hanoi Christmas 1970 and New Year 1971 letter-cards addressed to detained US pilots or care of COLIAFAM in New York.

US-Puppets To Be Blamed...

(*Continued from page 1*)

Phuoc, Thang Binh and Binh Duong massacres, the "Sea Tiger" Operation, etc., took place in this sector. If we add to these 45,000 tons of toxic chemicals an average one million tons of bombs per year we can figure out the colossal scale of the destruction of the natural cover in South Viet Nam.

The US-puppets took advantage of the disaster to step up their pacification program. The Western press filed numerous report on their military operations in the stricken areas. Nevertheless, this was not the first time the enemies of the Vietnamese people had recourse to such a piece of dastardliness. Thieu, Ky and Khiem had gained abundant experience in this field as mercenaries in rainy-season "mop-ups" in the Plain of Reeds, during the French colonialist war. In 1964, a big flood occurred in the Mekong Delta and the US-puppets then ordered the bombings of high grounds turned into islands on which the inhabitants had taken cover. The underground shelters having been flooded, these bombings had a much greater chance of inflicting heavy human and material losses. On board of their hydro-gliders which can operate in shallow-water areas, the US-puppets sprayed with bursts of machine-gun fire every tuft of grass or shrub susceptible of serving as cover for the population. As disclosed by Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, mothers had to put their babies in wash-basins or large cauldrons to keep them afloat. When there was an incoming plane or boat, they wrapped the whole thing in a square of water-proof cloth to keep it under water and out of sight of these murderers.

Therefore, the devastations occasioned by the October floods were not only the work of natural elements. The Americans and their lackeys must assume a major part of the responsibility and this has given us a fresh idea of real proportions of the crimes they have been perpetrating against the South Vietnamese.

Nixon and...

(*Continued from page 1*)

the formidable difficulties with which the Americans have been struggling and the Indochina war, *a priori* becomes more and more transparent. Nixon's machinations will grow less and less effective.

The November 3 elections have taught him a good lesson. In 1964 Lyndon B. Johnson was elected president with an overwhelming majority. But owing to the Viet Nam war, the Democratic party sustained a crushing defeat in the 1966 off-year elections and two years later he was compelled to withdraw from the political arena. Is the writing on the wall clear enough for Mr Nixon?

The D.R.V.N. is 25 Years Old

Social Sciences in Viet Nam

An Interview with Mr NGUYEN KHANH TOAN
Chairman of the Social Sciences State Committee

(*Concluded*)

4th QUESTION: *Has historical research made significant progress? Have there been new discoveries? Has there been re-appraisal of the national history?*

ANSWER: One of the branches which has made notable headway in our country over these last few years is historical research. This is no accident. By calling on the Eastern peoples to take part together with the international revolutionary proletariat and under its aegis in the renewal of humanity, Marxism-Leninism has aroused in them the conscience of their own forces whose sources and origins are sometimes very remote. For twenty-five years now, our people have made their own history themselves. The national conscience of the Vietnamese people took shape and woke up very early, hence this unsuppressible love for independence and freedom known to the whole world and which is the most vivid manifestation of their extraordinary vitality, outcome of a long history, and an original civilization and culture.

Viet Nam's ancient history has since long been perverted by those who wrote it. The latter fathered our old culture on aggressors. According to them, before their country was invaded, the Vietnamese were barbarians. They want so far as to assert that the Vietnamese of today were of alien stock while the autochthons who lived in savagery or in near savagery had disappeared a long time ago.

Elaborate investigations have been undertaken involving most varied branches such as: archaeology, ethnography, folklore, linguistics, literature, fine arts and even geology and anthropology.

Preliminary results have made it possible to identify Viet Nam's ancient culture as far as its age and original and local character are concerned. It transpires also from these inquiries that it had been moulded by the Lac Viet, the very ancestors of the present Vietnamese.

These researches and studies on national and social struggles waged by our people as early as the last stage of antiquity, throughout the Middle Ages till the beginning of modern times have supplied the solution to a theoretical problem long debated by our historians: the historical process of the shaping of the Vietnamese nation must have begun very early, before modern times.

5th QUESTION: *How important have been archaeological finds during the last few years?*

ANSWER: I have just given a partial answer to this question. I would like to add that the recent discoveries made at Phung Nguyen, Go Mun, Dong Dau, etc. (in the perimeter having the King Hungs' temple as its centre, Vinh Phu province) and those at Trang Kenh (Ha Long Bay, Quang Ninh province), Dong Son (new excavation), Thanh Hoa province, and Co Loa (near Hanoi) have given a clearer idea of the existence of the Vietnamese civilization of the Hung King epoch in time and space.

The results obtained and duly checked by scientific methods show that:

1. The appearance of that culture was an uninterrupted process going from the neolithic to the bronze and iron age.

2. The range of action of this culture went far beyond the limits of the midlands in North Viet Nam reaching as far as the Bac Bo (Tonking) Gulf and farther South.

6th QUESTION: *Have there been many ethnologic researches? Which is their theme, the minority people or the majority people?*

ANSWER: The essential task of ethnology at present is to classify from the physiological and linguistic features and the mode of life and ways and customs, the various ethnic groups in North Viet Nam. Studies have been completed on the more homogenous groups (Muong, Tay-Nung, Thai, Meo) and have begun on scattered groups like the Yao. Up to now, researches have been understandably conducted essentially on the minority people. In fact, the history of Viet Nam from remote ages to our times has been shaped by the Vietnamese people who also include various brother ethnic elements living and fighting together for many centuries on the same territory.

Another reason, by far the most important, is that ethnology must help the Party and government do away in the shortest delay with the economic and cultural backwardness of these ethnic groups.

For some time now the majority people have been the object of active researches dealing mainly with their traditions, ways and customs, folklore, physiological features, language, habitat, material culture. These initial investigations have uncovered a lot of common characteristics and affinities between the Viet proper and the ethnic minorities.

To strengthen the cohesion, unity and solidarity of all the peoples of a multi-national Viet Nam in the national effort and in socialist construction is the political objective of our ethnology.

7th QUESTION: *Can you give us an idea of the linguistic problems under discussion? Especially, what are the problems arising from the creation of a technical and scientific language?*

ANSWER: To perfect the national language in order to adjust it better to the new requirements of social development while safeguarding its purity is a crucial problem linguistics have now to face. It is so to speak the linch-pin of all that is to be done in this field: preparation of a dictionary of the Vietnamese language, improvement of the romannized script, work on terminology, etc. An idiom pervaded with the national genius in expression, in adoption and use of foreign words and phrases, rational (logical, clear, concise) and accessible to the broad masses of people, such is what we are trying to make contemporary Vietnamese.

The creation of a technical and scientific language gave rise five or ten years ago to a lot of controversies on points of form. This is easily understandable. In fact, our scientists and technicians have been trained in various schools: French, Soviet, Chinese... and it was imperative to keep within bounds of compromises. However, after the sharp criticism of President Ho Chi Minh who made a masterly use of the Vietnamese language and was unyielding on this point — and when our cadres had assimilated the basic principles (national, scientific, popular character) unity was *ipso facto* achieved. Textbooks on exact and applied sciences have been printed in millions of copies per year for the youth, workers, peasants and people's armymen.

8th QUESTION: *What are the major economic problems which confront us at present? Is econometrics likely to play an important role?*

ANSWER: The economic management of socialist economy is a matter on which our theoretical economists are focussing the bulk of their efforts. With regard to capitalist economy, research has been confined to US economy in its relations with its neo-colonialist policy and its war of aggression against the Indochinese peoples. A documentation work is also under way on the economy of the South Viet Nam puppet regime.

None of our economists contests the important role of econometrics. However, speculative they may be, their researches must be based on concrete economic phenomena backed by very accurate statistical data. The demonstration of the remunerativeness of a collective agricultural enterprises and consequently of the pre-eminence of collective production over individual production, for instance, has not been carried out without techniques of economic calculation. But we are still in the preparatory stage in this field, for, as has been said in the beginning, we are lagging behind as far as technical equipment for social sciences is concerned.

9th QUESTION: *What importance do you attach to international co-operation?*

ANSWER: Scientific work just like economic and cultural construction which it is part of cannot do without international co-operation. And the more this co-operation advances, the more varied are its forms. In addition to the exchanges of works and data, there have been exchanges of scientists, participation in international congresses, conferences, symposia as well as fact-finding visits to foreign countries.

10th QUESTION: *Works on Viet Nam have been undertaken by researchers from various countries. How do you think of them?*

ANSWER: Because of the war, over these last few years, Viet Nam has become the rallying point of all progressive and anti-imperialist forces in the world. Everything Vietnamese — history, people, culture, etc. — arouses a growing interest among the progressive intellectuals in all countries. More and more people, after a more or less prolonged stay in Viet Nam, have, upon their return home, completed the works they had conceived years back. Sometimes they are Ph.D. theses (in historical or economic sciences for instance) which their authors are so kind as to send us for our appreciation. These works show that their authors have really grasped the question not only as authors but as genuine intellectuals whose scientific honesty is solely prompted by the desire to militate for the mutual understanding of nations.

Dong Son excavations in Thanh Hoa province.

ON the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of the Kingdom of Cambodia (Nov. 9, 1970), President Ton Duc Thang, President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and Premier Pham Van Dong, sent to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, President of the National United Front of Kampuchea, messages of warm congratulations. The message sent by President Ton Duc Thang read:

"In the past 17 years, the Khmer people have been resolutely pursuing your judicious policy which essentially consists in defending the independence, peace and neutrality of Cambodia, strengthening solidarity and friendship with the other peoples on the Indochinese peninsula and opposing US intervention and aggression and have recorded brilliant successes in the defence and building of their country.

"At present, this task has taken greater proportions under the banner of unity and struggle of the FUNK headed by Samdech. The Khmer people have meted out well deserved punishment to the US imperialists and their lackeys, the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique, impelling forward the patriotic battle to victory to liberate the whole territory of Cambodia, and shape an independent, peaceful, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Cambodia, to contribute actively to the triumph of the common effort of the Indochinese peoples against the US imperialists for the independence and freedom of each country and for peace in this part of the world."

THE DRVN Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries organized on the occasion of Cambodia's National Day and the "International Week of Solidarity with the Khmer People's Struggle Against US Aggression" (Nov. 9-16) a talk in which Tran Lam, director of the *Voice of Viet Nam* Radio acclaimed the signal successes achieved by the Khmer people during the last 16 years under the leadership of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. He extolled the indomitable spirit and the exploits of the Cambodian patriotic armed forces and people in the struggle against the US aggressors and Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique.

ON Nov. 7, Mr. Sien An, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia in the DRVN, held a press conference in Hanoi in which he made known the achievements recorded by the Kingdom of Cambodia in national construction and in the patriotic resistance against US aggression.

THE KHMERS IN COMBAT

An interview with SIEN AN
Ambassador of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia in Hanoi

On the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of Cambodia, Ambassador Sien An was kind enough to grant an interview to our magazine. Below are the questions and answers:

1st QUESTION: *The Khmer resistance to US aggression, so heroic and effective, has astonished many people in the world. What are, in your opinion, the factors that have made it possible to launch and organize this resistance so promptly?*

ANSWER: *(As we remarked that our Khmer friends looked smiling, relaxed, the Ambassador said:)*

Yes, we are smiling because we are optimistic and firmly convinced of the justice of our cause. The American aggression did not catch us napping. We had been on the look-out. For years we had seen the Americans at work in Viet Nam. At that time our weapon was our policy of independence and neutrality. Since this neutrality had hampered considerably their aggressive action in Viet Nam, the Americans had hatched one plot after another against neutral Cambodia. We Cambodians had been expecting a more and more direct confrontation with Yankee imperialism. We were aware that the Americans would not confine their activity to Viet Nam.

Do you remember that the Khmer people rose up the very day, even the very moment, when the March 18 coup was announced? Your readers who have been closely following the events can easily recall the popular demonstrations immediately after the coup.

The entire Khmer people had been alive to the danger threatening their independence and freedom. You know when the people's awareness has been aroused, they'll have the necessary energy and initiative.

2nd QUESTION: *Will you please give us an idea of the political attitude of various sections of the population: peasants, workers, intellectuals, bonzes?*

ANSWER: People from all walks of life responded to the appeal of our Head of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk for the founding of the National United Front of Kampuchea. The farmers were among the first to give massive response. The workers and their political party, the Prochea Chon, also promptly declared their support for the Royal Government of National Union and the National United Front. Patriotic intellectuals sent their representatives to the Central Committee of the FUNK like Son Sen, Tiv Ol, Mme Ponary, or took part in the government like Khieu Sam Phan, Hou Youn, Hou Nim... The bonzes who always mix with the people — they depend on them for their food — have been in very close touch with the popular feeling and views. It is quite natural to find them in the ranks of the National Front.

3rd QUESTION: *How has the Resistance been organized in the military, administrative, political and economic fields?*

ANSWER: The principle of all popular resistances is self-reliance, and sound organization at the grass-roots. As soon as it was founded, the FUNK held in the free zone elections to village "khum," district and provincial committees. These bodies, each at its respective level, have been seeing to the good functioning of the whole resistance mechanism in the social, economic, political, military and security spheres.

As for the armed forces, we have the people's militia to ensure the security of each village, and our National Liberation Army under the command of Khieu Sam Phan, Minister of Defence and Vice-Premier.

The main task of the FUNK Committees is to assemble the entire people around a common program of struggle and construction. Each social segment has its own organization to rally its members and carry out the FUNK national and international policy. Such bodies are for example the Democratic Women Association headed by Mme Ponary, the Youth Association headed by Thout Rin, the various trade-union organizations headed by Ngnon Eng for the workers and by Chou Chet for the peasants... Hou Youn, Minister for the Interior, looks after administrative affairs.

On the economic plane, the FUNK's is a liberal policy, leaving to private initiative every latitude to develop agriculture, handicrafts and commerce. Production in the free zone has been maintained at a normal level: a bag of 100 kg of rice there cost 200 *riels* as against 1000 *riels* in Phnom Penh.

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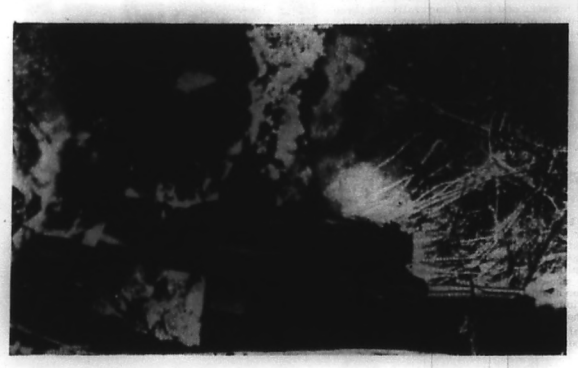

Photos:

US plane downed in Cambodia.

The lot of the Saigon mercenaries on Cambodian territory.

NIXON: The Man and His Policy

V - Nixon's Miscalculations in Indochina

TWO years ago, in the White House race, Nixon tried to set up for a "dove" and cleverly exploited the impasse into which Johnson had led US-Viet Nam policy. Lack of perspicacity in the appraisal of the situation, incompetence in the prosecution of the war, absence of decision to draw the US out of the Viet Nam quagmire..., such were the criticisms he levelled at his predecessor.

Once in the presidency, Nixon soon showed his cloven hoof and his inability to settle himself the thorny problems facing the US, first and foremost the war in Southeast Asia.

After two years in the saddle, or one half of his term of office, it is safe to say that Nixon has proved many a time out in his calculations in his Indochinese policy, blunders all very harmful to the interests of the American people.

Image of "pacification": GIs and Saigon puppet troops bogged down in the Plain of Reeds (South Viet Nam).

FIRST BLUNDER:
PROLONGATION OF THE WAR BY "VIETNAMIZATION"

FOUR months after his advent to power, Nixon would have been able to seize the opportunity to show his political acumen and his true "desire" to put an end to the Viet Nam war: in May 1969, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh made public the 10 points widely acclaimed as a sensible proposal prompted by the respect of the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people: independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and self-determination... Nixon turned to it a deaf ear. Better still, to all this he opposed his "Vietnamization" of the war claimed to be a plan more comprehensive than the "de-Americanization" advocated by Johnson after the PLAF *Tet* 1968 offensives.

The difference of these two plans lies in that Nixon wants a rapid consolidation of the puppet army parallel with the withdrawal of US troops and transfer of the war burden to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique. Nixon reckons that at a given time, the Saigon administration will become more powerful than the patriots, and Washington will then be able to settle the Viet Nam problem to its advantage, whatever the outcome of the Paris Conference may be.

"Vietnamization" is thus a plan not to end the war but to perpetuate and intensify it. Such is also the opinion of many political figures free from all suspicion of sympathy with the Vietnamese resistance, such as Clark Clifford, US ex-Secretary of Defense and Averell Harriman, former head of the US delegation at the Paris Conference. In Nixon's plans, South Viet Nam would remain under the control of US neo-colonialism through the agency of the ruling gang of traitors, propped up by a still sizeable contingent of GIs, even after partial withdrawals of US troops. In these conditions, to claim that "Vietnamization" would lead to "disarming" the opposition in the country, is to display an utter lack of knowledge of the American people whom all the imperialists' propaganda machine has failed to mollify.

Mr Nixon and company have raised a hullabaloo about the imaginary progress of "Vietnamization," increased combativeness of the puppet troops, control over 98 per cent of the population by the Thieu administration. But all this has been stultified by the realities on the battlefield, chiefly in the last few months. In point of fact, in April 1970, the PLAF hammered at 1,200 targets all over South Viet Nam in two days, causing to the Americans heavy losses while trebling the quislings' casualties. On the night of June 4, they launched another offensive against 130 bases in six coastal provinces, northeast of Saigon (between Da Nang and Cam Ranh) and 71 bases in Chau Doc province, Mekong Delta. In the first half of 1970, the enemy toll was: 230,000 men put out of action, 4,200 aircraft downed, damaged or destroyed, 10,000 military vehicles (6,000 armoured cars) wrecked, 1,259 ships and motor launches sunk or burnt, 1,600 ordnance pieces destroyed... According to preliminary figures, in the third quarter of the year, he took 42.000 casualties (3,500 GIs, South Korean, Thai, Australian and New-Zealand troops) and had 524 planes and choppers, 80 vessels, 650 military vehicles and 90 artillery pieces put out of commission.

The "pacification" program has suffered heavy setbacks. According to *Giai Phong* Press Agency, in the first nine months of this year, the patriots disposed of 15,000 spies, local tyrants and cruel "pacification" agents, captured 2,000 and served warning on 3,000 others. In the first half of 1970 alone, 2,000 strategic hamlets rose up; half of them were liberated and 100,000 members of para-military units disbanded. The US press admitted that the "pacification" program had been thwarted in many localities, chiefly in Quang Ngai province, (southeast of Da Nang) and the Mekong Delta.

As to the stability so much longed for by the Saigon quislings, the latter have been faced with a virtually total political isolation, and a mounting popular discontent in urban centres.

Thus by "Vietnamizing" the war Nixon has committed a gross strategic blunder which will cost him very dear in Viet Nam as well as in the US. His unfortunate predecessor had failed, for lack of clear-sightedness in the evaluation of his opponent's forces when he believed that by hurling half a million GIs in the tussel in the South and unleashing his aircraft against the North, he would be able to carry the day. To atttain the same goal Nixon has done quite the opposite: he simply challenges all logic.

SECOND BLUNDER:
INROAD INTO THE PLAIN OF JARS (LAOS)

IN August 1969, the Americans committed fifty battalions of Vientiane troops and Bangkok mercenaries to a large-scale offensive to occupy the Plain of Jars, (a vast towering plateau in the free zones of Northern Laos which is a sort of enclave on western frontier of the DRVN) in order: to use it as a springboard from which to constantly threaten the Lao free zones and North Viet Nam, to "attract, disperse and tear to pieces the Communist forces," help "Vietnamization" in Viet Nam, consolidate the position of the US placemen in Laos and Vang Pao bandit troops who directly receive from the CIA, weapons, funds, supplies and instructions.

Vang Pao bandits and Phouma's troops took the town of Xieng Khoang and many strategic points in the area without firing a shot; but the Yankees soon realized their mistake: in fact, it is difficult for the Lao patriotic forces to wipe out Vang Pao hordes in the mountains because they can disperse easily, but once out of their sanctuary, the latter are easily exposed to the strikes of the former. In February 1970 the patriots again liberated all the Plain of Jars-Xieng Khoang region, putting out of action 6,000 pro-American troops in four months.

This setback was of great significance insofar as the Plain of Jars operation was a test of the strategic formula developed by Nixon in his "Guam doctrine" which consists in making war in Asia with local land forces and American fire cover. Hence the great disarray among the Saigon quislings caused by the Laos adventure as it augured ill for "Vietnamization."

But this was not all the price paid by the Americans and their valets. Their encroachment upon that area liberated by the patriotic forces since 1960 and recognized by the 1962 Geneva Agreement drew a quick riposte from the Lao patriots the quislings were ousted from the towns of Attopeu (April 30) and Saravane (June 9) — bases which were set up deep in the liberated zones in Lower Laos — and extensive free areas were thus linked up from the Chinese frontier to that of Cambodia.

The mistake made by Nixon in the Plain of Jars, qualified as an "idiocy" by many a Congressman, lay mainly in the adventurous character of his conduct of the war. In spite of his position of weakness and loss of initiative to the benefit of his adversary, he persisted in counter-attacking and only brought upon himself failures, difficulties and strategic passiveness.

(To be continued)

THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION ILLUMINATES THE WORLD

A commemorative meeting for the 53rd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution was held on the evening of October 6 in Hanoi under the aegis of the CC of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the Viet Nam-USSR Friendship Association and the DRVN Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

Many representatives of public services, mass organizations and various sections of the Hanoi people attended.

The presidium of the meeting included: Nguyen Duy Trinh, member of the Political Bureau of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, Vice-Premier; Nguyen Van Kinh, member of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, President of the Viet Nam-USSR Friendship Association; Hoang Minh Giam, member of the Presidium of the CC of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front.

Taking the floor at the meeting, Nguyen Khanh Toan, alternate member of the CC of the VNWP, Vice-Chairman of the Viet Nam-USSR Friendship Association, warmly hailed the great event which has ushered in a new era in the history of mankind.

On this occasion he quoted President Ho Chi Minh as saying: "Like a radiant sun, the October Revolution illuminates the world and wakes up millions and millions of oppressed and exploited peoples in the world. There has never been in the history of mankind a revolution of such a great and far-reaching significance!"

He stressed the big successes scored by the Soviet people during the last 53 years of struggle against foreign aggression and local reaction, for the defence of the Soviet power in socialist and communist construction and chiefly in the conquest of the cosmos.

Extolling the unshakable fraternal friendship between the Vietnamese and Soviet peoples, Nguyen Khanh Toan conveyed the most hearty thanks of the Vietnamese people to the CPSU, the Supreme Soviet and government and people of the USSR for their valuable support and assistance to the just resistance of the Vietnamese people against US aggression. He wished the Soviet people new successes in the establishment of the material and technical basis of communism and in the struggle against imperialism and for the safeguard of world peace.

A message of warm congratulation was sent by Vietnamese Party and State leaders to their Soviet counterparts.

The Hanoi press has devoted large columns to articles hailing the 53rd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

A Soviet film show was organized in Hanoi under the sponsorship of the DRVN Ministry of Culture.

The Viet Nam-USSR Friendship Association and Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries staged in Hanoi a photo exhibition called "The Soviet Union on the path charted by V.I. Lenin."

IN THE UNITED STATES

Anti-War Protest in October

DURING last October Americans seized every occasion to oppose the military adventure of US authorities in Indochina and their repressive, terroristic and racial policies.

Besides the Oct. 31 mass demonstrations in various cities (See our last issue) here are some of the most remarkable events:

● On October 2, 1970 a great number of Washingtonians staged a three-day demonstration, broke into the Pentagon to flay the US government's use of chemical warfare against the civilians in its aggression against South Viet Nam. The Pentagon had to let the protestors enter its garden to plant four green trees as a token of their dissent from the utilization of toxic chemicals to defoliate South Viet Nam. "The evergreen is the symbol of life, and the Pentagon is the symbol of death" they said.

● In the "night vigil for peace" held at Duffy Park in New York on October 10, 1970 to mark the 6th founding anniversary of the War Resisters League's Saturday Peace Vigils, Dr B. Spock stated: "I'm here to call attention for the 1,000th time that the violence comes from the [US] government." He scored Nixon's obdurate refusal not to put an end to the Viet Nam war of aggression "until all our troops and puppets are removed," and charged that Nixon had insulted the American war protesters. He observed that Nixon was "hurling insults at young people who think are clearly a lot more honorable and idealistic than he is."

● In London well-known writers and artists took part in the Oct. 11, 1970 benefit performance for a Viet Nam relief fund organized at Mermaid Theatre by over 500 British politicians, intellectuals and artistes. Anti-Viet Nam war items were presented. The audience were deeply moved by a pantomime of Norman Morrison's self-immolation. Black singer J. Hendricks said that far be it from him to speak ill of his country, he only wanted his listeners to understand the heart's qualms of an artiste brought up in "a barbaric regime which is heading for decadence without going through the age of civilization."

● Industrialist Cyrus Eaton denounced at a press conference on October 28, 1970 in Paris Nixon's stubbornness in refusing to put an end to the Viet Nam war of aggression and resorting to tricks to mislead American public into believing that he wanted to end the war. He accused Nixon and Bunker, US Ambassador to Saigon, of persisting in prolonging the Viet Nam war and paying much more attention to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta's future than to US economy and added that the American businessmen demanded that the Nixon administration end the war.

● Representatives of the organizations of officers graduated from US military academies recently rejected at a press conference in Chicago Nixon's "new peace initiative" as a manoeuvre to seek a military solution to Viet Nam issue, and strongly condemned the Nixon administration's crackdown on dissenters. They emphatically said that Nixon's new proposal was based on the so-called "successes" of his Vietnamization policy, which in reality was one of failure.

● Huey P. Newton, Defence Minister of the "Black Panther" Party conveyed to the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN a letter saying that his party was ready to send volunteers to South Viet Nam to fight the US aggressors. The note read: "In the spirit of international revolutionary solidarity, the 'Black Panther' Party hereby offers to the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and Provisional Revolutionary Government an undetermined number of troops to assist your fight against American imperialism. It is appropriate for the 'Black Panther' Party to take this action at this time in recognition of the fact that your struggle is also our struggle, for we recognize that our common enemy is US imperialism which is the leader of international bourgeois domination."

CONDOLENCES OVER DE GAULLE'S DEATH

ON November 11, Ton Duc Thang, President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, sent a message of condolences over the death of General de Gaulle.

The message, addressed to President Georges Pompidou, said:

"It was with great emotion that I received the news of the passing away of General de Gaulle, former President of the French Republic.

General de Gaulle demanded an end to the US aggression and the total withdrawal of US troops from Viet Nam. He contributed to the development of friendly relations between the French Republic and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

On behalf of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and in my own name, I wish to convey our sincere condolences to you and to General de Gaulle's family."

— Upon learning of General de Gaulle's decease, President Ton Duc Thang also appointed Minister Xoan Thuy his personal representative to attend the requiem mass at Notre Dame Cathedral for the former French President on November 12.

— On November 12, Hoang Minh Giam, Minister of Culture, representing the DRVN Government, called at the General Delegation of the French Republic in Hanoi to pay the DRVN last homages to General de Gaulle's memory.

News from LAOS

⊙ Patriotic Forces' Big Success in Rainy Season

OVER 7,000 ennemy troops put out of action 4,500 fire-arms of various kinds and 73 military vehicles destroyed, 73 planes downed, such was the Lao patriotic forces' battle-count in the last five months of the rainy season (June-October 1970). In the period under review, these patriotic forces wiped out or decimated about twenty battalions (one Thai) and knocked off the muster roll many companies and platoons. Thousands of puppet soldiers went over the patriotic forces or deserted the ranks of the puppet army. In enemy-held areas, the inhabitants foiled many "sweeps" and thwarted the enemy's scheme to herd them in concentration camps and to impress them.

The gains in the rainy season testified to the constant progress made by the Lao patriotic forces and the increasing passiveness of the US aggressors and their stooges.

As a rule, the rainy season in Laos is used by the aggressors to show off their mobility in the deployment of troops and supply in a counter-offensive against the patriotic forces. That was what they tried to do this year in order to offset their heavy losses during the 1969-70 dry season. An effort was also made to make good the casualties the Vang Pao bandit units had suffered in the last operations in the Plain of Jars. US planes carried out heavy bombings while the Bangkok and Saigon mercenary troops came to the rescue of the Vientiane army.

However, in the last rainy season, the enemy was forced onto the defensive and into inactivity while in the previous rainy seasons they had been able to launch encroachments on the liberated zone, chiefly the Plain of Jars. Now they were beaten in many areas, especially in the region of Sam Thong and Long Cheng, Luang Prabang and Lower Laos... The Vang Pao bandit forces, US trump card in Laos, do not display the same aggressiveness as before, and accounted for one third of the total losses of the pro-US forces.

On October 25, 1970 *AP* commented with bitterness that the beginnning of the new dry season augured the most precarious situation for the "governmental army" (Vientiane army) in many years.

⊙ *Fresh US-Thai Military Adventures Denounced*

A spokesman for Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee scored the US imperialists' and the Thai reactionary administration's war intensification in Laos.

The statement, dated November 4, 1970, said that in mid-October 1970, at a meeting of the SEATO bloc in Honolulu the representative of the Thai reactionary administration proposed that the US imperialists intensify the bombing of Lower Laos. Moreover, besides the 19 battalions of Thai

(Continued page 7)

The PR of China's New Diplomatic Successes Hailed

ON October 13, the People's Republic of China and the Canadian Government put out a joint communiqué in which the Canadian Government recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal power of China, and both governments agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level.

On November 6, Italy granted recognition to People's China and decided to exchange ambassadors with her within three months.

Such developments represented new political and diplomatic successes of the Chinese people, and spelt out once more the fiasco of US imperialism in its hostile manoeuvres against them.

For two decades now, the US imperialists have illegally occupied Taiwan and turned it into a base for provocations against the PR of China. They have economically blockaded China and left no stone unturned to isolate her; they have been obstinately trying to keep her out of her legal seat in the UN and scheming to set up "two Chinas" in order to save the Chiang Kai-shek clique from collapse.

With her new successes the PR of China's credit in the world has been raised, to the gratification of the Vietnamese and of all peoples friendly to the Chinese.

The Khmers in Combat

(Continued from page 4)

4th QUESTION: *What do Lon Nol and Sirik Matak represent? What extent can the American aid and that of the Saigon and Bangkok puppets save them?*

ANSWER: They represent only themselves. The Western press has rightly dubbed Lon Nol mayor of Phnom Penh, if not head of Tuol Tapoung district (where he lives). At first, Lon Nol and Sirik Matak won the support of some elements of the compradore bourgeoisie dissatisfied with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's nationalization of the banks and external commerce. Some high-ranking officers also sided with them. Now, with the progress of the resistance and after a taste of the life under the puppet fascist regime, things are different. The urban people, including the bourgeoisie, is very angry at the corruption and rottenness of the Phnom Penh administration. Whole battalions of Lon Nol have gone over to the people. Without American backing, Lon Nol and Sirik Matak would collapse irremediably.

American aid and that of the Saigon-Bangkok agents can only delay the process. For divergences between Washington's valets are aggravating, the discontent of the town population is growing, the towns have been more and more isolated by the resistance forces, larger and larger sections of the population have thrown in their lot with the FUNK and international and American opinion has come out more and more strongly against the US aggression in Cambodia.

5th QUESTION: *What was the situation in November 1970?*

ANSWER: We liberated a little more than two-thirds of the territory with half of the country's population. The war zone now includes one half of the remaining third. Lon Nol and Sirik Matak are in control of some major towns like Phnom Penh, Battambang, Pursat... which, however, are not immune from attacks by our armed forces. Our National Liberation Army is holding the initiative of action well in hand. We can strike wherever and whenever we choose to.

6th QUESTION: *How do you appreciate international aid to the Khmer resistance?*

ANSWER: We think highly of the important and effective aid given us by our friends throughout the world. We hold that the US imperialists are the enemy of the whole progressive mankind. They want particularly to assault the socialist countries, the national liberation movements of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples. Any country may one day or another become the target of American aggression. We think that realization of this threat is increasing every day and the united front of the peoples against US imperialism will strengthen continually.

7th QUESTION: *What are the indispensable conditions for the re-establishment of peace in Cambodia and in Indochina?*

ANSWER: Our position is clear. Cambodia is an independent, peaceful and neutral country under the terms of the 1954 Geneva Agreements. We have been victims of a naked aggression by the United States. Let the US imperialists withdraw unconditionally their troops and the Saigon mercenaries, let them stop immediately their bombing against our territory and the Khmer issue will be automatically settled. As regards Indochina, we already have the very concrete four-point proposal of the DRVN, the ten-point solution then eight-point clarification of the South Viet Nam PRG and the five points of the Lao Patriotic Front. Every person of good will cannot but support them.

8th QUESTION: *What prospects do you envisage for the near as well as for future for the relations between the three countries of Indochina?*

ANSWER: Our three peoples rose up in arms at the same time to liberate themselves from French colonialism and shared the eventual victory over it. Then together we had to confront US imperialism. The Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples in Spring this year was the culmination of nearly a century—yes, a century, and a long one indeed — of common effort. We are companions in-arms bound by blood kinship and are as dear to one another as brothers of the same family.

No doubt, we shall win and our association will outlast that victory, in the respect for the independence, sovereignty and originality of each country and each people. United in the war, we shall remain united in peace to build our respective motherlands into ever stronger and more prosperous countries.

News from CAMBODIA

October Military Gains of the Khmer NLAF

⊙ **Enemy Clearing Operations Foiled.**

⊙ **Enemy Bases and Positions Stormed.**

⊙ **5,000 Enemy Troops Put out of Action.**

IN October, the Americans made great exertions to consolidate the tottering position of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique. US aircraft flew many support sorties a day for the Lon Nol troops and violently bombarded the liberated zones. The enemy carried out many clearing operations around Phnom Penh and along trunk communication lines. In the last ten days, 6,000 Saigon troops mounted two attacks against the Memot and Snoul areas, respectively 138km and 170 km, east-northeast of Phnom Penh.

The Khmer patriots inflicted heavy casualties on them. The most typical successes were won over Lon Nol's "biggest striking force" ever fielded consisting of 30 battalions engaged in clearing Road No 6 up to Kompong Thom. This force which was bogged down at Taingkank, about 100km north of Phnom Penh, had 2,000 men knocked out in October, bringing the total enemy losses since the beginning of the operation (Sept.7) to 4,300 men. Despite heavy cover supplied by US, Saigon and Bangkok aircraft, the Khmer NLAF did not loosen their grasp and all adverse attempts were foiled.

The Khmer patriots also carried out many well-coordinated actions with regular, regional troops and guerillas. They assaulted the enemy even in their bases and urban centres such as Kompong Thom, Kompong Chhnang, Siemreap, Takeo, Prek Tamiek, Srekhlong, Peam Chikang, Racakong, Krasat Krao, etc.

Below are some of the most fruitful operations:

— Night of Oct. 1: attack on Kohkol post, 23 km southwest of Kompong Speu: 100 Lon Nol troops wiped out, 2 depots reduced to ashes.

— Oct. 10 and 11: onset on the enemy positions at Siemreap town: 200 enemy casualties including 4 officers and 10 soldiers of the Saigon puppet army.

— Oct. 12 at Rocakong district capital, about 30km north of Phnom Penh: 2 companies of Battalion 153 of the Lon Nol army written off.

In October the Khmer patriotic forces were even active in two provinces of Pursat and Battambang regarded by the Lon Nol junta as their safest sanctuaries. The patriots liberated vast areas and took a toll of about one hundred enemy troops.

Enemy communication lines were frequently cut off (including 7 main roads radiating from Phnom Penh). On the waterways swollen by the rains a dozen vessels of the Lon Nol clique were sunk or set ablaze.

In total, in October, the enemy in Cambodia suffered at least 5,000 casualties.

Fresh US-Thai Military Adventures Denounced

(Continued from page 6)

troops already in Laos, the Thai ruling circles are urgently preparing to dispatch some 20,000 more Thai troops to Lower Laos to co-ordinate with the Vientiane army in encroaching attacks on liberated areas under the control of the Lao patriotic forces.

This is a new escalation of the war of aggression conducted by the US imperialists and their satellites in Laos in execution of the "Nixon doctrine" of making Asians fight Asians. The statement said at the same time it also reveals the Thai reactionary ruling circles' scheme to realize the "Greater Thailand" doctrine in Laos.

These acts constituted a brazen violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina and the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, aggravated tension in Laos and in Indochina as a whole, in the immediate future, they are likely to prevent a meeting between the plenipotentiaries of Prince Souphanouvong and Prince Souvanna Phouma designed to create favourable conditions for the Lao parties concerned to settle themselves their own internal affairs, free from US interference.

The spokesman for the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee strongly protested and denounced those intensified military adventures of the US imperialists and the Thai reactionary administration, and urged that they scrupulously implement the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina and the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, stop the bombing by the US air force and the direct commitment of Thai troops to attack on the liberated zone.

Enemy Naval Force Put to Hard Test

THE American command readily cited the Saigon Navy as a service where Vietnamization has scored great gains. Thousands of vessels of different tonnage have been handed to the Saigon authorities and Thieu's Navy has proved capable of taking over all operations on South Viet Nam waterways.

The Americans simply indulge in wishful thinking. During the past four months, the South Vietnamese patriots have shattered their dream by inflicting heavy losses upon adverse naval forces:

ATTACKS ON REAR BASES AND "FLOATING BASES"

— At **Ham Luong** wharf, 3km northwest of Ben Tre provincial capital, in the Mekong Delta, 4 ships and 2 motor-ferryboats were sent to the bottom on July 3, which sealed off the route linking Ben Tre to Mo Cay for many days.

— In the middle of **Vi Thanh** provincial capital, 170km southwest of Saigon in the Mekong Delta, 3 ships were sunk or set ablaze on July 3.

— On the afternoon of August 2, shelling of **Cua Viet** port, some 50km south of demarcation line of the 17th parallel. In 30 minutes, 5 ships went down including the 2000th sunk in this port since January 1968. In this connection *UPI* remarked that sailing on the Cua Viet river, the supply route of Dong Ha base and the Road No 9 front was for American ships like sailing in gun barrels.

— Destruction of a group of 4 ships, including two 10,000-ton military transports, on the **Vam Lat** river, one of the channels linking Saigon to the sea, on August 23.

— At the **Binh Duc** "floating base" on the Mekong river, 64 km southwest of Saigon, 7 ships sunk or destroyed on September 8.

— Destruction of a fluvial convoy on the **Nam Can** river near the southernmost point of Viet Nam on September 24: 9 ships sunk, including a war vessel 150 m long, 150 GIs put out of action.

— On October 3, a river flotilla of 4 ships (including a gun-boat 80m long) completely wiped out on the **Tam Giang** river in Ca Mau peninsula.

— The **Ong Doc** "floating base" at the mouth of the river of the same name, 280 km southwest of Saigon, on the Thailand gulf, composed of floating installations 300m long by 40m wide surrounded by fuel and ammunition depots, repairing shops, a radar station, a powerhouse, etc., completely blotted out on October 20. Besides, 17 ships sunk or set ablaze, 300 enemy troops, including 100 Americans (officers and technicians) were knocked out.

INTERCEPTION OF RIVER FLOTILLAS JOINING IN "PACIFICATION" OPERATIONS

— From July 3 to 6, guerillas of Duyen Hai district, southernmost point of Viet Nam, sank 6 ships on the **Nam Can** river and on July 14 the 7th ship on the **Cai Ngay** canal.

— On July 6, guerillas of Tran Hoi village sank 4 ships on the **Ong Doc** river.

— The Tuyen Binh district (Plain of Reeds) regional troops intercepted on July 25 2 convoys on the **Vam Co Dong** river and sank 3 boats. On the same day, they also sent to the bottom the 4th ship on the **Duong Van Duong** canal.

— On July 27, 28 and 30, 4 US vessels sunk on the **Cua Viet** river. The Americans had to bombard the wreckage to clear the waterway and re-open the traffic between Cua Viet and Dong Ha.

— A flotilla sent to the rescue of military posts situated on **Xeo Ro** canal, south of Rach Gia town, intercepted by PLAF men on August 6: 4 vessels sunk, a chopper downed.

— On the **Long Tau** river linking Saigon to the sea, 2 cargo-boats of 8,000 tons set afire on August 25.

— Ambush on the **Nam Can** river against a flotilla on a "sweep": a ship sunk on November 4.

— In broad daylight of September 6 and within 3 hours, 2 military freighters of 90,000 tons each, set ablaze on the **Dong Tranh** river between Saigon and the sea.

— On the same day, an enemy landing force intercepted near **Hong Ngu**, 150km west of Saigon: 33 boats sunk, hundreds of puppet casualties.

— A cargo-boat carrying war material sunk on September 10 on the **Cua Viet** river.

— Interception of river forces on a "sweep" along the **Tram** river near Thoi Binh on Ca Mau peninsula: 4 ships sunk on September 11.

— A river patrol of 4 ships completely wiped out: all the four craft sunk on October 3 on the **Ong Doc** river, at the mouth of the **Kao Cui** river and hundreds of enemy troop casualties.

— In two engagements on the **Co Chien**, a tributary of the Mekong in Ben Tre province, guerillas sent to the bottom 2 enemy vessels on October 8.

PLAF men going to the front.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

Ca Mau Province:

7 COMPANIES WIPED OUT IN ONE NIGHT

ON the night of Oct. 27, PLAF men made two attacks on positions of Regiment 33, puppet Infantry, Division 21, and civil guards in Cai Nuoc district, Ca Mau province, *Giai Phong* Agency reported.

According to the latest news, the PLAF wiped out 6 companies of puppet regular troops and Company 241 of civil guards, destroyed 12 blockhouses and barracks and 6 big mortars. Those units were supplying cover for the "special pacification" forces in the area. This was a hard blow dealt at the enemy "pacification" program.

In the same district, the PLAF fought off an enemy sweep. From October 27 to November 1, they knocked out 250 enemy troops and downed 7 choppers.

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Saigon Ruling Clique's Harsh Repression of the Population

THE Saigon institute for Buddhist vulgarization reported in a communiqué that on November 1, about 400 Cao Dai believers incarcerated in Con Son, Chi Hoa and Co Vap prisons had staged a hunger-strike.

On November 2, 300 students of the teachers' college coerced to attend course at the Quang Trung military training centre, left the camp and returned to their school.

On November 8, the Vice-President of the War Invalids' Association (for ex-puppet armymen) informed that over 10,000 members of his association in various towns and cities in Southh Viet Nam had had their heads shaved.

On November 9, the Saigon paper *Dan Chu Moi* (New Democracy) had two columns on its front page left in blank as a protest against lack of freedom of the press.

All the above-mentioned facts show the indignation of various strata of the urban population against the puppet regime.

In October last, 13 students and secondary school children were arbitrarily arrested by Saigon police. Nguyen Van Thang, ex-Secretary General of the Students' General Association and the President of the Law Students' Delegation, were committed for trial.

The puppet authorities also summoned before the military court Do Van Man, deputy-head of the Buddhist students' group, and another Buddhist student. Owing to a strong popular protest, repression was somewhat reduced, but Man and his friend were still to be tried by a civil court. Meanwhile, they were subjected to savage torture so much so that their counsel had to declare that their "avowal" was of no value. This gave rise to the above-mentioned protest early in November.

The Cao Dai believers who had staged the hunger-strike were jailed because they had refused to don the puppet army uniform. The students of the teachers' college opposed the military training imposed on them by the puppet authorities. The war invalids protested against the Saigon administration which had flattened their dwellings but refused to raise their allowances. It was in response to the call of their association that 10,000 of these people had shaved their heads...

Opposition to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique is mounting with every passing day. On November 7, the "Popular Front for Peace" openly demanded withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and replacement of the present quislings in Saigon by a government "capable of achieving the people's aspirations."

In their November 9 issues, four Saigon papers: *Tin Som* (Morning News), *Thach Do* (Challenge), *Tin Dien* (Telegraphic Information) and *Dan Y* (People's Will) publicly approved the 10-point peace program put forth by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN. Their Nov. 9 issues were seized and their managers prosecuted.

The political atmosphere in Saigon is stifling.

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